

New York Tribune.

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The Railroads and the Public.

It is an encouraging thing for the railroads that public opinion universally approves their request for an increase in freight rates. It is a proof that the people are, after all, just. The old period of hostility and suspicion is passing. When the railroads come forward and point to the fact that added burdens of taxation, increased wages and the advancing cost of supplies and equipment make necessary a larger income than can be earned on the basis of the present rates hardly a voice is raised to dispute the justice of the claim.

Doubtless an increase in rates should have been made some time ago. Doubtless the railroads have suffered because of the delay in the face of the advancing cost of living for them. So far they have reasonable grounds of complaint against the system of public regulation of their charges. Readjustment has been slow. But at least there is basis for the hope that it will be less slow in the future. Once the public has admitted that rates have to be advanced to meet advancing costs of operation it should be easier to convince it that future advances are necessary whenever they may become so.

The circumstances of the last previous demand for higher rates were unfortunate and the request was ill timed. Just before the law giving the Interstate Commerce Commission its present authority to suspend and investigate new rates went into effect the railroads sought to put through a considerable advance in freight charges. The movement was checked only through pressure exerted by the national administration. It produced a bad impression. By acting as if anxious above all things to avoid investigation by the Interstate Commerce Commission the railroads led the public to think that their proposed rates would not bear investigation. The public became suspicious. The increase proposed then, as the present more moderate percentage requested seems to show, was excessive. The plan failed and the whole project of a fair readjustment of charges to meet needs was set back several years. Had the roads not tried hastily to increase rates before the public authorities obtained the legal right to inquire into advances, and had they presented their case some months later with all the outward evidence of good faith shown to-day, there is reason to believe that they might have been successful.

A great step forward has been made toward relations of mutual confidence between the public and the railroads since the last proposal to increase rates was unfortunately made. To grow in public esteem and trust the railroads have only to use the surplus returns which they will receive from the higher rates which they seem certain now to get exactly as they now promise to use them—in improving service, increasing safety of travel, enlarging facilities and generally in promoting their own prosperity and that of the communities which they serve. The people are willing to pay for a better and safer service.

"What Next?"

Under this caption "The Outlook" presents a solution of the Mexican problem, pinning it to a Tribune cartoon with the same title. Readers of The Tribune will recognize the plan as one suggested by this paper some months ago.

Had the administration acted in concert with the leading South American nations in making representations to Huerta it might have failed, but even so it would have been in a better position than it is to-day. A concert of powers would have had to have a definite policy before acting and it would not have been content to leave its affairs in the hands of magazine writer diplomats. Blunders would have been avoided and this country's relations with Latin America would have improved instead of being impaired.

Whether South American powers would care to co-operate with this country as the situation stands now is, however, extremely doubtful.

The Public Pays the Contractor-Politician Graft.

District Attorney Whitman's John Doe inquiry into the contractor graft has now proved its worth by a second indictment, on testimony which seems unusually clear and pertinent. Again the campaign contribution extracted by force figures in the proceedings. James K. McGuire, politician and contractor's supply man, has been indicted for attempting to extort a contribution from a corporation just as Fowler, the bagman, indicted before him, was caught for actually squeezing campaign contributions out of state contractors. And in each case, as in all other cases of the kind, there was the expectation, expressly stated or implied, that the public itself should pay. McGuire, in endeavoring to complete his bargain with the corporation, he had on the carpet, is said to have declared that it would get advantageous contracts from the state if only it paid this campaign contribution to his party and gave him his commissions. Fowler, in compelling the contractor Hull to make his contributions, is said to have told him his work would not be passed by the highway inspectors unless he did, but they would be friendly if he yielded.

If the contractor-politician blackmail game, or the business man-legislator graft game, were merely a case of dog eat dog the public could look on with comparative equanimity and the cordial hope that they'd soon get tired of feeding on each other and turn moral. But the public pays. Graft always comes out of its pocket. When the legislator blackmails a public service corporation, or the corporation buys a charter or franchise or pays graft to kill some bill to compel a needed reform, the public pays in poor service or high rates—or both. When the bagman blackmails the contractor it is with the understanding that his political allies in office

are to wink when they find the contractor stealing from the state in poor work and excessive charges. The result is as inevitable as taxes, and the system is almost as old as tax collecting.

Mr. Whitman's work here and Mr. Osborne's work in the graft investigation upstate will give the public a new and extensive course of instruction in the way it has been bled. It will also give the contractors and the bagmen who have been speculating in public funds and taking chances with law enforcement a knowledge that the public does not always remain indifferent. When the preliminary courses are ended it is to be hoped some of the advanced students in the bagman and politician classes may begin a new course of instruction in jail administration as practised in the state prisons. Nothing else would render graft so unpopular.

May They Live Happily Ever After.

The whole nation will attend in spirit to-day the wedding of the President's daughter. For the day, at least, it will relegate Mexico and the currency to subordinate chambers of the brain and dispatch in countless thought waves its congratulations to the happy bridegroom.

A wedding in the White House, no matter how great an ordeal it may be for the principals and their relatives, always furnishes the country with an engrossing, but simple and wholesome, topic and spectacle. When a girl as fresh and as thoroughly American, in the best sense, as Miss Jessie Wilson, and a young man, clean cut and intelligent, like Mr. Sayre, proclaim their love to the world and stand up to become man and wife it renews one's faith in the efficacy of American idealism.

Our wishes are all the more ardent, therefore, that these partners experience a pleasurable and tranquil journey along life's highway. We hope that the celebration of their golden wedding will crown a romance whose type we Americans justly and proudly claim as our own.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Churchill.

Mayor-elect Mitchell was ill advised in some of his actions as head of the school inquiry committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. His coming out for Mr. Churchill's reappointment to the Board of Education only proves that he is still under the influence of the same advisers.

Mr. Mitchell sees the defects of the schools and is impatient to correct them. But the short cut toward improvement by means of stripping the educational heads of the system of their authority over technical matters and vesting it in a lay board will lead only to confusion. When Mr. Mitchell assumes office and has the responsibility for the schools actually upon his shoulders we feel sure that he will be less ready to upset the existing system in favor of one which has failed wherever it has been tried than his Panama statement in Mr. Churchill's favor would now make him seem to be.

The Slaughter of the Hunters.

Maine seems to have taken the lead in hunting casualties this year. Up to date the season in that state has produced twelve victims. As usual, they were almost all of them killed by some companion who "saw a movement in the bushes and fired, thinking it made by a deer."

New York State has been singularly fortunate of late—not that its hunters are any more fool-proof than those of other states, but as a by-product of the game laws and their enforcement. It is forbidden to shoot a doe, and violation of the law brings a severe penalty. As a result, hunters take a little care about what they shoot. It might pay other states to enact a similar law, if only by indirect action can some measure of protection for the hunters be gained.

Cornering Human Life.

Humanity is dishonored by the state of affairs which is disclosed, on very high authority, by The Tribune's Berlin correspondent. Four of the most eminent German scientists declare that the high cost of radium and mesothorium is due to the sordid commercialism of their producers. In a word, those chemicals are being cornered by monopolists.

That is a monstrous thing. It is highly desirable that the marvelous mineral should be placed as freely as possible in the hands of all competent investigators and operators. At \$90 a gram it is beyond the reach of all but a few. To reduce its cost one-half would be to multiply its use many times.

For men needlessly and from greed to keep the price at an almost prohibitive figure is equivalent to cornering human life itself. To correct such an abuse the intervention of the powers, which some scientists are suggesting, would not be too extreme a course.

The Housewives' Boycott.

It is a most encouraging sign to see the consumers of the country combining. Caught between capital and labor or made the victim of the producer and the middleman, the consumer has delayed his "turning" long enough. All honor, then, to the heroic and determined women who make up the 700,000 members of the Housewives' League. There is the kind of militancy which, whether they like it or not, will bring more votes to women than all the violence of their English sisters can destroy. It is with coils of fire on their heads that their humbled brothers thank them.

We hope their national boycott of the egg market will have the effect of opening up completely the entire subject of food supplies and cold storage. This can do neither consumer nor produce merchant any injury. The situation calls for something drastic, since isolated protests, or even combined protests, if confined to words, seem ineffective either in lowering the price or eliciting the truth.

If cold storage eggs are being sold as fresh we want to know it. If a corner in eggs exists we want to know that, and if the supply of eggs is totally inadequate to meet the demand the sooner we are sure of it the better.

A Law to Unhobble Voters.

From the outline of his views it appears likely that Governor Glynn's direct primary bill will be one which sincere believers in that much needed primary reform may safely support, unless they are not now prepared to go to the length of abandoning the state convention. Everything, of course, will depend on the way in which the Governor's ideas are worked out in detail in the bill's provisions. Yet any bill which has for its basis the group system or Massachusetts form of ballot for the primaries, and deprives the organization of use of the party emblem and party funds in primary contests, must do away with much of the evil of the present law.

The Governor's ideas about the usefulness of the

direct primary are those which any sensible man who has studied the system must reach. It is not a political cure-all, nor in its palmy days will it ever produce a political millennium. But if the law, as Governor Hughes used to say, can only be made to "take the hobbles off the party voter" it will be the voters' own fault if they have to grope about corrupt party management and the graft-swelled fortunes of political bosses. A careful, adequate direct primary law will do much to unhobble the voters, and there is no mistaking the fact that they want such a law.

Facts About the City's Needs.

The City Planning Exhibition at the Public Library offers the taxpayers an excellent opportunity to get accurate, scientifically prepared information about this city's needs and how to meet them. It is to be hoped they will take full advantage of it. With all its vast expenditures of money and all the resources in the way of study and disinterested advice supplied by a few experts, New York City is not so well governed as are many municipalities less well off. This is largely because its people at election times are too busy with personalities to think of principles and means of government, and too busy all the rest of the year meeting the rent and the grocer's bills to care much what the officials do, so long as they don't steal all there is in the treasury.

This exhibition will give people here a chance to compare our municipal methods with those of other cities in this country and abroad. A basis for comparison is an excellent stimulant for thought. Such taking of thought ought to result in more intelligent interest in public affairs on the part of the voters themselves. That of itself would render more easy intelligent work for city betterment, both as to its immediate needs and the needs of the future which thoughtful city planning is designed to meet.

Oil, apparently, has no such effect on Mexico as it has on the waves of the sea.

In the state of Cole Blaise the only citizens who feel like celebrating Thanksgiving are the "lifers" whom the Governor has pardoned.

We offer Mrs. Pankhurst our condolences. Anthony Comstock finds her daughter's book unobjectionable.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

While he was at the office the colonel's family had attended to the moving into a new flat, and when he entered late at night—after the banquet, in fact—he did not see the Colorado maduro cat that accompanied him up the dark stairway.

"Myank," said the cat, which was a little hoarse. "No, suh," said the colonel, "I'm from Jawjah, suh."

"Myank," repeated the cat at the second landing. "I explained the matter to you befo', suh," said the colonel, peering half into the darkness.

"Myank," said the cat in the colonel's room. With the calmness of desperation the colonel struck a match, caught sight of a new papier mache statue which his wife had installed and utterly demolished it with a chair.

"Is that the same fellow we saw doing stunts in an aeroplane?"
"When was that?"
"About six months ago."
"Well, hardly," said Life.

Young America is up to date, and if not overburdened with reverence at least understands the principles of dietetics, as a local Sunday school teacher discovered. The lesson subject was the old familiar Daniel in the lions' den, and seeking to draw out the fact that he was a godly man she asked the class, "Why didn't the lions eat Daniel?" Whereupon one young hopeful piped up: "'Cause they was afraid they'd get indigestion, and they didn't have any rediments with 'em."

Mother—Now, Freddie, at the party when asked if you'll have something, you must say, "Yes, thank you"; and if you don't want it, you must say—
Freddie—Don't bother, ma. I don't expect to refuse anything—Boston Transcript.

The Rev. Dr. Henry L. Stimson, of New York, was addressing the guests at the Clerical Conference luncheon to Sir William M. Ramsay at the Savoy.

"Sir William," he said, turning to the noted scholar, "I have this to say to you: I was at the 'Cheshire Cheese,' in London, and a man from Aberdeen sat next me."

Sir William, being the best known product and exponent of the University of Aberdeen, smiled genially.

"Do you know Sir William Ramsay?" I asked.
"Aweel, ay; but he's na mooch—ye Americans dinna think eno'."

"It always takes two to make a quarrel," quoted the Wise Guy. "I always thought a husband and wife were one," added the Simple Mug—Philadelphia Record.

How many soda fountains are there in the United States? About 75,000, and their number is growing at such a rate that the editor of "The Soda Fountain" confidently predicts that in a decade there will be as many of them as there are saloons—200,000. This optimistic editor adds that "the soda fountain is becoming a real factor in our American life; it is patronized by all classes; its influence is wholesome; it works for good habits, good health and good citizenship, and its highest standards should be carefully safeguarded." So say we all of us.

She—Have you seen any ladies dressed in the fall fashions yet?
He—None. They still seem to prefer the "before the fall" fashion—Judge.

WHAT NEXT?

A Solution of the Mexican Problem.

From The Outlook.
Let the President of the United States call upon Brazil, Argentina and Chile, the three greatest states of Latin America, to join this government in framing a policy for establishing order in Mexico and in sending a commission of four special ambassadors, one Chilean, one Brazilian, one Argentinian and one citizen of the United States, to Mexico to see that that policy is carried out. Let us in this joint way say to Mexico that the North and South American continents cannot tolerate the disorder in Mexican affairs, which injuriously affects the entire world; that human life must be protected; that property must be respected; that the constitutional laws of Mexico must be observed; and that popular rights as they are outlined upon the statute books of Mexico must be maintained.

It is said that intervention by the United States would create a long and disastrous war. Certainly, the combined armies and navies of Chile, Brazil, Argentina and the United States can enforce upon Mexico any policy of justice which those four great nations determine upon. Great Britain, we believe, the European nations would readily and happily assent to this plan. It would not only stop bloodshed, pillage and the disorder in Mexican affairs, but it would create throughout the entire length and breadth of Latin America the conviction that the United States has at heart not its own selfish interests but the welfare, joint and neighborly, of the two American continents.

The Panama Canal is about to be opened, and the United States is making every effort to promote friendship, for political, social and commercial reasons, with Latin America. Here we have a great opportunity to put an end to an intolerable annoyance at our own border and to develop a spirit of fraternity and co-operation with the Latin-American peoples. We know that the European concert has often been sadly out of tune. And yet does not the idea of an American concert for the settlement of Latin American affairs, which shall succeed in a kind of way in which the European concert has so often failed, appeal to the imagination as well as to reason and common sense?

AND THE PUBLIC PAYS.



CONTRACTOR—Five hundred dollars is pretty steep.
BAGMAN—That's easy. Charge it in your contract.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

MRS. BLATCH ANSWERS CRITIC

Reviews Course Pursued by the Suffrage Campaign Committee.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In last Sunday's Tribune one of your correspondents, calling me, among other things, "hasty," asks that her letter be printed in the official organ of the Women's Political Union. This compliment to the circulation of our paper in contrast to that of a great New York daily touches one's sense of humor and makes one all the more ready to give assurance that the letter will be copied. It will stand in double column opposite the following facts:

1. Last spring, when representatives of suffrage societies invited Mrs. Catt to be chairman of a campaign committee, the Women's Political Union moved as a recommendation that Mrs. Catt make the committee broadly representative. This recommendation was unanimously passed.
2. This autumn the first meeting of the campaign committee was called. Far from every Assembly district being represented, as your correspondent claims, there was not present a single person from any upstate district, nor had any upstate woman been even invited to be present.

3. One resolution passed by this narrow body of six members, in opposition to the vote of the Women's Political Union, was to the effect that the union must give up its organization throughout the state or withdraw from the committee.

4. The minority of one asked that so sweeping a decision be deferred until the executive board of the Women's Political Union had an opportunity to discuss a proposal so vital to it. This was refused.

5. The minority of one asked that the committee define by resolution its powers. This was refused.
6. The minority of one then asked two questions in order to gain an idea of the boundaries of the committee, and found them quite limitless.

7. The first question was, Would the Women's Political Union, since its organization was to be wiped out, be expected to give the funds it might have for organizers to the treasurer of the campaign committee? The answer was yes.

8. The minority of one then posed this hypothesis: "Suppose the Women's Political Union wanted to give a dinner to Mrs. Pankhurst and the majority of the campaign committee thought such a feast unwelcome, would the union be free to give the dinner?" The answer was no.

9. The resolutions and discussion showed that the Women's Political Union was not expected to "co-operate"; it was being forced to withdraw from the committee or commit hari-kari. It withdrew. The union has no pride of organization. If to wipe itself out would insure a victory in 1915 it would willingly annihilate itself. But, believing it has somewhat the same part to play in the future as in the past, it has decided, in the interest of the referendum, to continue to exist.

HARRIOT STANTON BLATCH.
Croton-on-Hudson, Nov. 20, 1913.

HOW TO PRODUCE CHEAP EGGS

Don't Buy Feed; Let Hens Forage for Themselves.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In answer to Mrs. E. H. Field's question to Mrs. Heath as to how can eggs be cheaper? For nearly fifty years we raised hundreds of fowls, nearly as many turkeys, besides peacocks, and never paid out a penny for their food. They are great foragers, preferring grasshoppers, bugs, worms, etc., during spring, summer and autumn. They were always fed morning and night on corn, buck-

wheat, sunflowers, etc., which we raised on our own place.

It does not require a large space to raise their food. Many times in warm weather they had found all they wished and would not come when called for their supper, and were always fat and healthy.

We got quantities of eggs, for which we received 10 cents a dozen in summer and 12 to 15 cents in winter, and felt well paid. I consider they are more healthful when allowed to forage for themselves.

New York, Nov. 19, 1913. H. D. M.

"SPUG" PRESIDENT EXPLAINS

Mrs. August Belmont Writes of the Order's Objects and Ideals.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: May I ask for a little of your valuable space to correct a false impression which is taking root regarding the purpose of the Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving?

I would like to state as briefly as possible what we are trying to do, and what we are not trying to do. We attack the collective giving which is current, customary and therefore almost compulsory at Christmas, which results in unfair taxation of working men and women. And most unfair of all is to call it Christmas giving.

We attack the exchange system of giving, which has degenerated into an abuse of Christmas and has drifted to the level of the common swap utterly devoid of the faintest trace of sentiment or meaning. But we did not organize to prevent giving! That would be foolish in New York, to say the least. New York, which is always the first to respond to a call of need; New York, which is always first on the list of subscribers; New York, which in spite of her faults stands alone and unrivalled in generosity.

On the contrary, we urge giving. Give generously; but not from fear, to further some ulterior motive, or even because it is a tiresome custom, but give willingly for the pleasure or help you may bestow; give for the love and joy of giving.

The society may bring about a few changes in the kind of presents sold to anxious buyers as useful Christmas gifts, but we do not expect to interfere with or limit the purchase of Christmas presents. If any one thinks by joining he is very much mistaken. But we believe in the right of the individual to freedom as regards Christmas giving.

Why limit the definition of useful to material things? Anything that fits a need of any kind naturally becomes "useful." Surely at some moment we have all experienced the usefulness of encouragement. Many of our most ardent supporters are the embarrassed receivers of collective presents. Of course, collective giving does not exist everywhere and is fast dying out, but it is still more general than people realize, and believing no law or custom is stronger than the public opinion behind it, we hope to abolish this custom by showing public opinion.

Any one believing as we do is urged to become a member, each member is urged to form a squad that is to secure ten other members, thus becoming by automatic promotion a captain of Spugs. We plan to have a big Christmas party, and each member is expected to bring or send to that party some lonely person who would not have a happy day otherwise.

We believe every one should do his share, contribute his mite to the general good will, good cheer and good fellowship of Christmas.

The dues of the society are 10 cents a year. This includes the pin which must be worn during the campaign. It may be obtained at the Spug headquarters, No. 105 West 40th street, or any local secretary of the Vacation Savings Fund.

We thank you for an support and publicity you give this cause.
ELEANOR ROBSON BELMONT,
Nov. 19, 1913. President.

PEACE CENTENARY EXPOSITION

An Appeal for Support from the People of the United States.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The organization of the Anglo-American Exposition, to be held in the year 1914 in London under the most distinguished patronage, deserves to receive the hearty and interested support of the people of the United States. The object of this exposition is to celebrate the centenary of peace and progress in the arts, sciences and industries of the United States of America and the British Empire. This purpose is one of exceptional significance, for it is not the signing of the Treaty of Ghent alone that both nations will unite in celebrating, but also the development and spread among the masses of the people of both countries of that spirit of mutual understanding and good will which makes the idea of armed conflict between them as abhorrent as its existence is unthinkable.

The United States, drawing as it does, strong and helpful elements of its population from different nations and from various races in the Old World, is particularly justified in treating as of high significance the celebration of a centenary of peace with Great Britain.

It is the purpose of the Anglo-American Exposition not only to celebrate but to commemorate. It will aim to present with definiteness and with comprehensiveness a historic summary of what the two nations have achieved in their relations to education, to art, to science, to industry and to commerce. The project for the exposition has received wide popular support. Representative committees on both sides of the Atlantic are generously devoting themselves to furthering the purposes of the exposition, and they invite co-operation and the support of public spirited citizens everywhere.

In the exhibits large space will be given to the products of inventive genius and to industry, because it is in these fields that the spirit of its advance offers the most tangible and visible evidence of its activity. These evidences of manufacturing enterprise, which will be also witnesses to material prosperity, will help to strengthen the present bond of commercial union between the United States and the United Kingdom, and will, in so doing, serve to insure the continuance of peace and good will between them. Ample grounds and appropriate buildings are provided, and the exhibits from both nations, and it may confidently be counted upon that American pride and American patriotism will not be lacking to make the exhibit from the United States worthy of the best elements of our civilization.

In view of the importance of the Anglo-American Exposition and in view of its value as an evidence of sound, popular feeling and of friendly international relations, we appeal for the widest possible support for the idea which it represents, and we ask active interest and co-operation in promoting its success.

NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, Vice-President.
JOSEPH H. CHOATE, Vice-President.
JAMES B. FORGAN, Vice-President.
DAVID R. FRANCIS, Vice-President.
ALVA B. JOHNSON, Vice-President.
A. LAWRENCE LOWELL, Vice-President.
SAMUEL MATHER, Vice-President.

New York, Nov. 22, 1913.